visit of Prime Minister Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao in September 1993. The Joint Working Group has met nine times and the Expert Group has met five times.

The area under occupation by China in Jammu and Kashmir is approximately 38000 sq. km. In addition, under the so-called Sino-Pakistan 'boundary agreement' of 1963, Pakistan illegally ceded approximately 5120 sq. km. of Indian territory in pakistan Occupied Kashmir to China.

While reiterating the determination to resolve the boundary question in a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable manner, the two sides have agreed, in the interim, on concrete measures to ensure that peace and tranquillity is effectively maintained in the border areas.

Bangladesh :

The demarcation of land boundary between Bangladesh and India is still to be completed. The Indo-Bangladesh Land Boundary Agreement was signed in 1974. Full implementation of provisions of this Agreement requires demarcation of the boundary, and exchange of adverse possessions and enclaves. The work on identification of enclaves to be exchanged has been completed. The boundary demarcation work, along with complete identification of adverse possessions has been taken in hand by the survey authorities of India and Bangladesh. Thereafter, legal and constitutional requirements have to be fulfilled prior to the implementation of the Agreement. The areas of the boundary which are yet to be demarcated are 36 km in West Bengal, 3 km in Assam and 1.6 km in Tripura. Additionally, 155 km of fluid boundary on the rivers Sonai Ichhamati, Kalindi, Raimangal and Haribhanga in the West Bengal sector also needs to be demarcated.

Government have been holding regular discussions and field surveys incooperation with Bangladesh authorities towards completion of boundary demarcation. The last Indo-Bangladesh Boundary Conference was held in Dhaka on July 18-24, 1997.

Repotriation of Malayali Nurses from Kuwait

942 SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the kerala Government has requested for the Central Government's intervention for repatriation of a large number of Malayali nurses who have taken refuge in the lndian Embassy in Kuwait;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS SHRIMATI K AM ALA SINHA): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Chief Minister of Kerala in a latter dated 31.5.97 requested the Prime Minister of India's intervention to help the nurses, who had taken shelter in the Indian Embassy premises in Kuwait following a dispute with their employers. Of the 255 nursing assistants recruited for M/s Abdul Aziz Yousef Al-Essa, Kuwait, through M/s Santosh Travels, Bombay and Manpower Agencies, of Governments of Kerala and Tamil Nadu, 180 nursing assistance struck work and took shelter in Indian Embassy, Kuwait on 22nd May, 1997. Their main demand was that they should be paid KD 85 per month, as promised verbally at the time of recruitment, whereas they were getting KD 60 per month as per the written agreement signed by them. Government immediately instructed the Indian Ambassador in Kuwait to look into the matter. Prior to this, the Embassy had taken up the matter with the employer and the Ministry of Social Affairs & Labour, Kuwait.

(c) The Indian Embassy in Kuwait made arrangements for food, shelter and medical facilities from the day the nursing assistants took shelter in the Embassy

premises. In addition, the embassy arranged meetings with the Company Management and the Ministry of Social Affairs & Labour, Kuwait to resolve the issue. Due to the concerted efforts of the Embassy, 38 nursing assistants have returned to India on tickets provided by the Company. 35 nursing assistants rejoined duties in the Company However, of the remaining 107 nursing assistants, 98 still continue to stay in the Embassy premises while 9 have chosen to have the Embassy on their own. Sonne of the 98 have decided to either file a case in a Kuwaiti court or negotiate through the Ministry of Social Affairs' and Labour; others have not made a (decision as yet. The Indian Ambassador is personally monitoring the situation and is hopeful of an amicable solution even in respect of the 98 remaining nursing assistants.

Bogus Passports Issued by Regional Passport Office, Mumbai

943. SHRI MUKESH R. PATEL:
SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any information about the touts working in and outside the Regional Passport Office in Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of bogus passports issued from the Regional Passport Office in Mumbai during the last two years; and

(d) the details of those found guilty and the action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (.SHRIMATI KAMALA SINHA): (a) and (b) From time to time, government receives information about touts working outside Regional Passport Office in Mumbai. Whenever such cases come to the notice of Regional Passport Officer, he asks the concerned agencies to take action against them. However there are no touts working inside the Regional Passport Office, Mumbai.

(c) No case of issue of bogus passport by the Regional Passport Office, Mumbai, during the last two years, has been brought to the notice of the Government.

(d) Does not arise.

Countries Supporting India's Stand on Jammu and Kashmir

944. SHRI MUKESH R. PATEL:
SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any classified information of the countries which support India's stand on the issue of Jammu and Kashmir on the different international fora;

(b) if so, what are the names of those countries; and

(c) the names of those countries which favour Pakistan's stand on the issue of Jammu and Kashmir?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI KAMALA SINHA): (a) to (c) There is widespread recognition, in the international community, of India's position on Jammu and Kashmir. The international community also appreciates that the State of Jammu and Kashmir has been a victim of trans-border terrorism. India's policy of resolving all differences with Pakistan peacefully through bilateral discussions has received extensive support. The recently resumed bilateral dialouge between the two countries has been widely welcomed.

Distribution of Anti-India Literature by Pakistan

945. SHRI AKHILESH DAS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite Foreign Secretaries' level talks held recently between India and Pakistan to